

Thoughts from Tim Brown, Edgeley Director on the Dakota Heartland Champion Community Board -

"Being in existence for two years has proven to the Edgeley community that the Dakota Heartland Champion Community is extremely valuable.

Each of the DHCC individual communities continue to have separate economic development projects, but they are also working together on expanded community projects. The Edgeley community places the highest priority on the value of the regional economic development efforts that are taking place.

Having structured, scheduled meetings with strong leadership and good participation from all communities has helped us all support one another. Developing methods to make us financially able to hire professional expertise has made us extremely effective.

All of us now believe that supporting area communities vs. trying to compete with one another helps overall economic development. Edgeley values the support of the other six communities and by being a partner in the Dakota Heartland Champion Community, this helps all of us understand that our rural communities are facing similar challenges.

Rural economic development will only succeed when communities work together rather than acting independently. The Dakota Heartland Champion Community is a success."

The status of several projects that are currently being worked on in the Edgeley area consist of the following.

- 1) The FPL Energy Wind Turbine Project that is being built in the Edgeley-Kulm area is by far the most exciting economic development issue that we have had to deal with for years. The construction of the 41 towers plus all of the wiring is going to be a construction boom to our area. Hopefully the project is the first of many additional wind farms to be constructed in our area.
- 2) The City of Edgeley is proceeding with their Main Street project of replacing the Main Street sidewalk, curb, and gutter. In addition, the main block of Edgeley will have a new street surface and new street lights.
- 3) The Edgeley Economic Development Corporation has taken the leadership role in developing the united effort between the five communities in our county to approach the LaMoure County Commissioners for the development of a county-wide jobs development authority. Our goal is to have information presented to the LaMoure County Commissioners prior to their late summer budgeting process.
- 4) The Edgeley Economic Development Corporation has announced a housing program that will be sponsored through November 2003. EEDC has committed \$50,000 to be used in three ways.
 - 1) The first program is for existing homes in town and would be used to reimburse the purchaser of an existing home in town up to 10% of the purchase price. The maximum amount of this 10% would be \$7,500, and it would be repaid after five years starting one year after living in the home.
 - 2) The second purpose of this program would be to support the construction of new homes. EEDC would provide a \$5,000 upfront incentive, plus if the new home was being constructed on property owned by EEDC, they would also be provided with one free lot.
 - 3) The third goal of our housing program is to assist in anyway possible with the construction of apartment house development.
- 5) The Edgeley Economic Development Corp. has undertaken a summer beautification project in the community working with the city council, park board, and all other organizations in town. In a community wide meeting, 19 areas of suggested improvements have been identified, and various organizations are taking ownership of those projects. The Edgeley Economic Development group has taken 4 of the projects under their leadership which consist of the following:
 - 1) Reimbursing any business or resident of Edgeley \$100 for any type of improvement made. We have capped this at \$10,000.
 - 2) EEDC will re-do the two existing murals on two building sites this summer.
 - 3) Edgeley Economic Development is committed to upgrading the signage on the highways and within our community. A new church directory sign is being erected along with other signs around the community.
 - 4) Edgeley Economic Development has committed to raising \$5,000 within our community to be invested in "Welcome" street banners and hanging flower pots around our community.

The overall response to the beautification program has been extremely positive and is creating good will and many improvements are being completed in the area.